



The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 1, 2013

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

The Roundtable on Critical Care Policy strongly supports the Senate Amendment to H.R. 307, the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act (PAHPRA) of 2013, and urges the House of Representatives to swiftly pass this vital legislation that will improve America's public health, medical preparedness and response capabilities, and enhance the nation's ability to care for the critically ill and injured in the aftermath of a public health emergency.

In particular, our organization strongly supports the Roundtable-endorsed provisions included in the current version of PAHPRA that would prioritize critical care within the National Health Security Strategy (NHSS). More specifically, these provisions would, for the first time, add care for critically ill patients in our nation's intensive care units (ICU) to the federal government's medical preparedness and surge capacity goals, thereby ensuring that critical care is included in federal, state and local planning efforts to increase preparedness for public health emergencies. This reauthorization would require the inclusion of medical surge capacity in the periodic evaluation of the nation's preparedness capabilities, enabling an efficient and effective medical response during an emergency.

The Roundtable also commends the inclusion of language in the NHSS that requires coordinated medical triage and evacuation to appropriate medical institutions during a public health emergency, which supports the Roundtable's past calls for increased planning for patient evacuation in hospitals—including ICUs.

When our nation is faced with a health emergency, the critical care delivery system is an integral component of our nation's medical response. Yet, despite the fact that Americans depend on this delivery system to care for our most critically ill and injured—a system whose capacity is truly put to the test and often stretched to its limits in the event of a widespread health emergency—critical care medicine has not been given sufficient consideration in our disaster preparedness efforts, until now.

The Roundtable believes that the inclusion of these provisions in the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act of 2013 will go a long way towards strengthening the nation's critical care infrastructure, and addressing the needs of the critically ill and injured in the event of a major public health crisis.

We applaud the U.S. House of Representatives under your leadership for working to improve our federal disaster preparedness efforts, and ensuring the prioritization of critical care within PAHPRA.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Silverman  
President

**About the Roundtable on Critical Care Policy and Critical Care Medicine**

The Roundtable on Critical Care Policy is a nonprofit organization that provides a forum for leaders in critical care and public health to advance a common federal policy agenda designed to improve the quality, delivery and efficiency of critical care in the United States.

CC:

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman  
House Committee on Energy & Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Energy & Commerce  
2322A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joseph R. Pitts  
Chairman, Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee  
420 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Ranking Member, Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee  
247 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Rogers  
133 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515